

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
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USEEC, USOECD

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: ENRG, GW, IR
SUBJECT: SHIPMENTS OF IRANIAN GAS TO THE FRG

1. IN A BUNDESTAG EXCHANGE, A QUESTION WAS RAISED
AS TO THE RELIABILITY OF IRAN AS A SOURCE OF NATURAL
GAS FOR THE FRG IN VIEW OF ANNOUNCED POLICIES TO
EXPAND CONSUMPTION OF GAS DOMESTICALLY WITHIN
IRAN.

2. PARLIAMENTARY STATE SECRETARY GRUENER OF THE
ECONOMICS MINISTRY REPLIED THAT SINCE 1976 THE
IRANIAN GOVERNMENT HAD ANNOUNCED A PROVISIONAL
SLOW-DOWN IN CONCLUDING NEW EXPORT CONTRACTS
BECAUSE OF PROJECTED INCREASED USE OF GAS
DOMESTICALLY: E.G. FOR GAS INJECTION IN OIL
FIELDS TO INCREASE OIL OUTPUT, TO SUPPLY AN
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ENLARGED PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRY AND FOR GREATER
CONSUMER USAGE.

3. GRUENER MAINTAINED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GERMAN
GOVERNMENT HAD NO CAUSE TO DOUBT THAT GAS SUPPLY
CONTRACTS WITH IRAN WOULD NOT BE FULLY MET. ON
THE CONTRARY, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXPORT

CONTRACT SIGNED IN 1975 BETWEEN RUHRGAS A.G., GAS DE FRANCE, THE AUSTRIAN PETROLEUM ADMINISTRATION AND THE NATIONAL IRANIAN GAS CO (NIGC), WHICH INVOLVES PIPING GAS FROM IRAN ACROSS THE SOVIET UNION AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO THE WEST, WAS PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY AND DELIVERIES ARE EXPECTED TO START IN 1981 AS AGREED.

4. HE ALSO SAID IT WAS THE FIRM BELIEF OF THE FRG THAT IRANIAN RESOURCES WOULD EASILY COVER BOTH EXPANDED DOMESTIC AS WELL AS EXPORT DEMAND. GRUENER REFERRED TO A STATEMENT BY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NIGC MOSSADEGHI AT THE LNG-5 CONFERENCE IN DUSSELDORF LAST YEAR IN WHICH MOSSADEGHI SAID IRAN HAD SUFFICIENT GAS RESERVES TO CONTRIBUTE TO AN EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GAS, ESPECIALLY IN THE FORM OF LNG.

5. HE WENT ON TO CITE THREE PROJECTS WHICH WERE NOW BEING PLANNED: DELIVERIES OF 10 BILLION CUBIC METERS PER/ANNUM (CBM/A) TO THE USSR; DELIVERY OF 17 BILLION CBM/A TO GERMANY, FRANCE AND AUSTRIA (THE SO-CALLED THREE CORNERED TRANSACTION); PLUS 3.6 BILLION CBM/A TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA; AND DELIVERY (STILL IN NEGOTIATION) OF 4-12 BILLION CBM/A TO JAPAN AND THE U.S. FROM UNCLASSIFIED

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THE LNG-KALINGAS PROJECT.

6. ESTIMATES OF TOTAL ANNUAL IRANIAN NATURAL GAS REQUIREMENT (DOMESTIC AND EXPORT) WERE GIVEN AS 200 BILLION CUBIC METERS, WHILE PROVEN AND POSSIBLE RESERVES AMOUNT TO 24,000 BILLION CUBIC METERS.

STOESSEL

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